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SUBJECT: DCM MEETS MINISTER-DESIGNATE OF EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH, AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT TO DISCUSS ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS LEGISLATION

¶1. Summary: DCM and Poloff called on Minister-Designate of Employment, Youth, and Manpower Development Joseph Kofi Adda on February 10 to highlighted our interest in Ghana's passage of an anti-trafficking law. Adda said that Ghana intended to enact the law but it would take some time for the cabinet to introduce legislation before parliament. End Summary.

Trafficking in Persons

¶2. DCM explained our trafficking in persons (TIP) report to Adda and noted that Ghana was the only sub-Saharan African state on Tier 1; however, Ghana would probably not remain on Tier 1 unless it passed anti-trafficking legislation. Adda responded that the GOG had the best of intentions but it would take some time for the cabinet to discuss the proposed legislation and present a bill to parliament. Because of the government is very new, Atta could not promise passage during this session of parliament, although he would personally push it.

Training Issues

¶3. Adda went on to note that much of the GOG bureaucracy required further training. He expressed gratitude for the many USG programs that have helped to upgrade skills but commented that his own ministry was in need of an overhaul, as it lacked computers and a solid database. DCM commented that while many of Ghana's present leaders were trained by those who still had a pan-African socialist orientation, the country had made a good transition to being a free-market democratic state.

Labor Relations: A New Paradigm

¶4. Adda expressed concern over obstacles to foreign investment. Toward that end, he envisioned regular meetings with organized labor, business, and his ministry that would lead to continual dialogue and problem resolution at an early stage. Another key component of his pro-investor strategy was to better train his staff of arbiters so that they could mediate industrial disputes effectively and avert crises. Adda was proud that he had previously spearheaded budgetary reform and strengthened internal audits.

Comment

¶5. Adda was friendly and forthcoming. He has been vetted by parliament and expects to be sworn in as minister in the next few days. We were encouraged that he is willing to push for passage of a TIP bill.

Bio

¶6. Joseph Kofi Adda (48) was a management consultant, with a B.Sc. in Economics and Political Science from Indiana Wesleyan University (1979-82), a certificate in French Language and Civilization from Sorbonne University, Paris, and a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University, New York (1982-84).

An ethnic Kassena, Adda is from Upper East Region, where he has represented the Navrongo Central constituency in parliament since 2003. In parliament he has served on four committees: Privileges; Finance; Agriculture, Food and Cocoa Affairs; and Trade, Industry and Tourism.

In Ghana Adda has worked as Director at Omni Consulting International, as Technical Advisor for Financial Reforms at the Ministry of Finance (1999-2000), and as Project Manager for the Public Financial Management Reform Program (1996-98).

While in New York Adda worked as Principal Consultant for Macro-Anayltic Consulting (1989-91), Securities Analyst at Thomson McKinnon Securities (1986-88), and Research Analyst at Third World Trade Institute (1983-84).

He is married with two children.
YATES